

**Environmental Assessment:  
Programmatic Commercial  
Guide and Special Event  
Services for Red Rock Canyon  
Core**

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# **Chapter 1. Introduction**



## **1.1. Identifying Information**

### **1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project**

Commercial Guide Services for Red Rock Canyon Core, DOI-BLM-NV-S020-2010-0014-EA

### **1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action**

Mount Diablo Prime Meridian T. 21 S., R. 58 E., sections 1, 4; T 20 S., R. 58 E., sections 33, 35; T. 22 S., R. 58 E., sections 11-14, 23-26, 34-36; T. 22 S., R. 59 E., section 7, 8, 16-21, 28-30, 32, 33; T. 23 S., R., 58 E., sections 1-3, 11, 13, 14, 23-26, 35, 36; T. 23 S., R. 59 E., sections 5, 7, 8, 18

### **1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office**

Lead Office - Red Rock - Sloan Field Office

### **1.1.4. Identify the subject function code, lease, serial, or case file number**

LLNVS02000

Case file number

### **1.1.5. Applicant Name**

Various

## **1.2. Purpose and Need for Action**

The Purpose of this Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) is to streamline the process for issuing Special Recreation Permits (SRP) in the Core Red Rock Canyon NCA (RRCNCA). The Core area is defined as the system of trails and roads including the scenic drive, Red Spring Calico basin area, facilities along Highway 159 including the Dedication Overlook, Scenic Drive Exit, Old Oak Creek, First Creek, Moenkopi Road. SRPs are authorizations which allow for specific recreational uses of public land where a permit is required. They may be issued as a means to control visitor use, protect resources or as a mechanism to accommodate specific recreational use. The need for the proposed action is to provide a more updated and efficient processing time table to meet public demands for commercial, competitive, organized group and event SRPs in the core Red Rock Canyon NCA area.

At present there are six separate EAs utilized to cover activities in the above listed sites. These include NV-50-2008-134 for SRPs for all activities located solely in developed sites on the Scenic Drive, Visitor Center, the Dedication overlook (Hwy 159) and Red Spring. No new disturbance of land vegetation or wildlife is permitted. EA NV-050-06-69 for commercial hiking and walking events; NV-050-2003-246 for commercial rock climbing guide services; and NV-050-2003-96 for SRP ( Guest permits) for rock climbing. This programmatic EA would consolidate the Rock climbing guide service EAs, (NV-050-2003-246 and NV-050-2003-96)

which were analyzed over 7 years ago. It would also update 4X4 EAs for the Rocky Gap Road which were included in EAs NV-050-2005 and NV-050-07-436. Finally this EA will include permit types which were not originally analyzed in the original EAs, and streamline the preparation of EAs for similar projects.

BLM's decision to be made is whether or not to approve a designated set of Special Recreation Permits for processing under one EA.

### **1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues**

The Proposed action is in conformance with the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for RRCNCA, which was approved May 20, 2005. The RMP identifies that a broad range of outdoor recreational opportunities will continue to be provided for the public.

In the years since the signing of the RMP several types of commercial, competitive, and organized groups events, not specified in the RMP have consistently been requested by the public including weddings, large group and family events, poker runs, yoga tours, artistic events and tours, and scooter tours. The proposed action will address these activities.

We have held one public meeting to get input from users and interested parties. We also held an open house for current permittees to involve them with scoping and issue resolution. We intend to continue with an open dialogue with the public to address issues of group size and accessibility to the conservation area.



## **Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives**

## 2.1. Description Alternate A- Proposed Action

The purpose of this action is to streamline the permitting process by identifying areas within the core Red Rock Canyon approved for multiple recreation uses, to meet current and future demands and clarify areas within and outside the developed scenic drive areas which will be available. Commercial and organized group activities would be permitted on designated trails and facilities as defined in the RMP.

All approved SRPs will comply with:

- Clark County Air Quality Regulations that is enforced by the Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management, the air quality compliance oversight agency as designated by the Governor of the State of Nevada.
- BLM Special Recreation Permit stipulations listed in Appendix A. **Additional stipulations may be added to individual Special Recreation Permits as required.**

The charts below list the types of SRPs which could be issued and the maximum number covered in this programmatic EA. The numbers analyzed is based on historic use of the conservation area. **Other permits may be considered, however they would be processed through a separate environmental analysis.**

**Table 2.1. Commercial Ongoing SRPs in Core Red Rock Canyon**

Recreational Opportunities	Number of permits Proposed	Number of Tours allowed per day	Maximum number per tour
4 X 4 (OHV) guided tours (Rocky Gap Road)	4	2	5 vehicles
Mountain bike/Road guided tours	4	2	12 bicycles
Bus Tours	not described	no limit	undefined
Motorcycle/Scooter	4	2	20 persons
Rock Climbing- "Guest" (limited to two 5-day or one 10-day period/year)	8 proposed	2/ area	12 persons
Rock climbing- Full Time	5	2/area	12 persons
Hiking guided tours	5	2	12 hikers
Hunting	not defined	1	Only permitted in areas above 5000 ft. with LVFO permit.
Equestrian- Full time (Blue Diamond Mesa to be covered in separate EA)	3	8	40

Equestrian- Guest Permits (Scenic Drive exit)	1/month	1	40
Yoga/ fitness	2	1	12
Weddings (159 Overlook, Red Spring Boardwalk, Sandstone Quarry)	2 full time	5	50 or less depending on location* see Weddings below
Artistic	2	1	12 clients
Camping- commercial use of group camp	2 per day	2 group sites; limit 14 days two times per year	50 depending on site

**Table 2.2. Competitive SRPs**

<b>Recreational Opportunities</b>	<b>number of permits allowed per year</b>	<b>Maximum number of participants allowed per event</b>
Foot Races	5	500
Rock Climbing	1	1000 limits on participants/spectators per site/event* see Competitive Rock Climbing below
Poker Runs	5	50
Duel Sport- Rocky Gap	2	50
Equestrian- Rocky Gap	1	50
Vehicle- Mountain Bike/motorcycle (not speed events)	2	100

**Table 2.3. Event SRPs (non-Competitive)**

<b>Recreational Opportunities</b>	<b>Number of permits</b>	<b>(V) = Number of Vehicles per event; (P) = Number of Participants per event</b>
Foot- on Scenic Drive	5 per year	500 (P)
Foot- trails and unpaved roads	2 per year	300 (P)
Hiking- Organized groups not educational	10 per year	50 (P) per group, divided into sections of 15 with 20 minute
Mt. Climbing- Organized groups/Educational	5 per year	12 (P) per group per area, 10 days per permit total, 50 (P) per permit
Bicycle	5 per year	500 (V)
Motorized scenic drive and developed sites only	5 per year	300 (P)
4X4 Organized Group (street Legal only)	2 per day	10 (V) per day, limited to 5 per group per area
Equestrian	5 per year	50 (P)

Group Use Picnic- Other (Willow Spring, Overlook, Off Season campground)	24 per year	50 (P)
Group Use Picnic- Red Spring	300 per year	50 (P)
Group Camping and off season use of Campgrounds	2 per day	Maximum of 2 sites per permit. Group size limited to the available parking/site.
Vehicle- educational	50	75 (P)
Wedding	12 per month	50

### **Commercial On-Going SRPs**

**Guided 4X4 (OHV) tours:** Tours would be limited to 4 ongoing SRPs per year. Tours would be limited to 2 tours per day per permit with not more than 5 vehicles per tour. Vehicles would be limited to 15 miles /hour on the Rocky Gap Road. One of these commercial permits may be utilized for Organized Group permits for special /one-day events not to exceed 5 per year.

**Guided Mountain Bike/Road tours:** Tours would be limited to 4 ongoing SRPs per year. Tours would be limited to 2 tours per day with no more than 12 mountain/road bikes per tour, including guides.

**Motorcycle/Scooter tours:** These would be limited to 4 permits per year. Each tour would be limited to 2 tours per day with a maximum of 20 guests per tour. Street legal vehicles only.

**Rock Climbing- Full time:** Full Time permits would be limited to 5 with a limit of 2 tours per day/area and 12 clients per area/tour..

**Rock Climbing-Guest Permits:** Guest permits would be limited to 8 per year. Each permittee would be limited to 10 days or two 5-day periods per year for one year with a limit of 2 tours per day/area and 12 client per area/tour. There is not a guaranteed consecutive year renewal.

**Hiking Tours-Guided:** Tours would be limited to 5 on-going SRPs per year. Tours would be limited to 2 tours per day with no more than 12 participants per area, which includes guides. One of these commercial permits may be utilized for Organized group permits for special one day events not to exceed 10 per year. (see non-commercial below)

**Hunting:** Commercial guides must have an existing NDOW and Las Vegas Field Office permit. They are only permitted above 5000 ft., be in season, and follow all stipulations.

**Equestrian-Full Time:** Tours are limited to 3 permits for the entire Conservation Area. They each have defined locations. At this time there are no existing permits in the areas considered under this permit.

**Equestrian-Guest** would be limited to 1 per month. This would be limited to 40 horses and guests per event. Staging must be at the Scenic Drive Exit parking area or Red Rock Campground Group sites ONLY if available and campground is not open for other uses. If staging is from private land, a maximum of 40 horses/guests per day would be allowed. Participants would be limited to existing designated equestrian trails and dirt roads.

**Yoga/ Fitness Tours:** Permits would be limited to 2. No more than 1 tour per day with no more than 12 total participants is allowed. Participants would be limited to the Calico Basin and Sandstone Quarry areas.

**Weddings:** Permits would be limited to 2 full time permits. Each permit would be limited to 3 areas in the RRCNCA including Red Spring Boardwalk, Dedication Overlook and Red Rock Wash Overlook. Red Spring and Dedication Overlook would permit a maximum of two 2-hour periods per day with a maximum of 50 guests. Red Rock Wash Overlook would be limited to two 2-hour periods per day with a maximum of 15 Guests and two vehicles. Permits would include still photography. Videography would require an additional permit from the Las Vegas Field Office.

**Artistic:** Permits would be limited to 2 full-time permits. These would primarily be for classes/workshop type of opportunities not for educational purposes by formal educational institutions. Paint, photography and sculpture could be included. Participants would utilize existing trails and facilities, and would not leave any material behind. No more than 1 tour per day with up to 12 participants each is allowed.

**Commercial use of Group Campground:** This would be limited to a maximum of 2 group sites permitted per day with a 14-day limit no more than 2 times per year. This could be used in combination with hiking, Mountain biking, rock climbing, or other uses which are not in conflict with the RMP. Groups must not utilize this permit for day use of the campground unless the campground is not normally open to the public. No catering or vending is covered under this permit.

### **Staging and Support:**

All tours would be limited to designated roads and trails in the core Red Rock area. If other trails are designated, applicants may apply to amend their permit to include these areas. No cross country travel would be permitted.

Permittees will be responsible for set up, staging, monitoring, damage control, tear down, and clean-up of any utilized resource in the conservation area they use. They will be responsible for providing adequate facilities for their clients/spectators. If the permittees use existing facilities, they will provide for the maintenance, cleaning, and supplies used for the duration of the permit, including pumping of pit toilets after an event, using their own contractor. They may not restrict the public from utilizing BLM provided facilities.

All vehicle parking and event staging will be conducted at developed or designated parking areas. No parking will be allowed off road. No commercial vehicles will be staged at areas not specified in the permittee's SRP. Staging may be permitted at the Red Rock Campground only as approved by the BLM when there are no other conflicts.

### **Competitive SRPs**

**Foot Race events utilizing the Scenic Drive:** These would be limited to 5 SRPs per year with no more than 500 participants per race.

**Foot Race events utilizing trails and non paved roads:** These would be limited to 2 SRPs per year with no more than 300 participants per race.

**Competitive Rock Climbing:** While not addressed in the Record of Decision (ROD) for the RMP, it could be a permitted event. Competitive events would be limited to 1 event per year and only permitted during November- February or May-August. No more than 20 competitors/area/event and 30 spectators per area/event. Events would not be able to take place in Wilderness Areas. Maximum number of participants, vendors, event staff, and spectators are not to exceed 1000 within the Conservation Area. Maximum number of locations would be 10.

Special stipulations will be developed as part of the Climbing Management Plan specific to Competitive Climbing. Proponents will be encouraged to utilize off-site facilities for vending, seminars, and other large group events related to this SRP.

**Poker Run events utilizing the Scenic Drive:** These would be limited to 5 SRPs per year with no more than 50 participants per event.

**Duel Sport- Rocky Gap:**

There would be limited to two permits per year with a maximum of 50 participants per permit. Street legal vehicles only. No travel off designated road or wilderness permitted.

**Equestrian- Rocky Gap:**

There would be limited to one permits per year with a maximum of 50 participants per permit. No travel off designated road or wilderness permitted.

**Mountain Bike/Road Bike (Non-speed events) :**

Permits would be limited to 2 per year. Maximum number of participants would be 100. Only designated mountain bike trails, the scenic drive and existing parking areas would be utilized.

**Staging and Facilities:** All vehicle parking and event staging will be conducted at the Entrance Station Parking, Visitor Center Parking, Dedication Overlook Parking, Red Spring Parking or the Scenic Drive Parking areas. No trails in Wilderness Areas will be authorized.

**EVENT SRP's (non-competitive):** These could include and are not limited to Organized Groups\*, family reunions, Scouting and community groups.

**Foot noncompetitive events-Scenic Drive:** These will be limited to 5 SRPs per year. The number of participants are limited to 500 persons on the scenic drive simultaneously not including various challenge levels. The maximum allowed amount of participants for these events are 1000 participants per event.

**\*Hiking-Organized Group non-educational:** These include clubs, family groups, meet-ups, community centers, church groups and other not-for-profits groups. This covers groups which do not charge. No fee, compensation for services or fund-raising would be covered in this section. No public advertising for the event would be allowed. There would be a maximum of 15 persons per group with at least 20 minutes between groups. No more than 50 persons per day will be allowed. Only 1/2 of available parking per trail head would be permitted for group use.

**Guest Climbing permits/Education/Organized Group:** Permits would be limited to 5 per year with a limit of 10 days per year. This could be 2 five-day visits or 1 ten-day visit. This limit would be in addition to the commercial Guest Climbing permits. The RMP requires us to work cooperatively with school programs.

**Bike noncompetitive events-Scenic Drive:** These will be limited to 5 SRPs per year. The number of participants are limited to 500 persons on the scenic drive simultaneously not including various challenge levels. The maximum allowed amount of participants for these events are 1000 participants per event.

**Motorized non-competitive events Scenic Drive and developed sites:** These will be limited to 5 SRPs per year. Number of participants are limited to 300 persons on the drive simultaneously. Events will not go into Wilderness Areas.

**4X4 Community groups:** Permits include those for organized group include 4X4 clubs, family groups and other non-commercial groups greater than 15 individuals and 5 vehicles. These would be limited to no more than 10 vehicles per day per area. Street legal vehicles only.

**Equestrian non-competitive event:** These will be limited to 5 SRPs per year. Number of participants are limited to 50 persons and horses. Events will not go into Wilderness Areas and stay on designated equestrian trails. The Scenic Drive Exit parking area and Red Rock Campground during non-public use time are the only area covered in this permit. If other areas are designated and/or developed by the BLM, these can be incorporated into this programmatic EA.

**Willow Spring and Dedication Overlook Picnic Areas by Organized Groups :** There would be a maximum of 1 four-hour period per day with a maximum of 50 visitors/period. Other assigned site fees and trash/cleaning fees may be required for requests beyond the four hour period.

**Red Spring Group Picnic Area :** There would be a maximum of 1 four-hour period per day with a maximum of 50 visitors/period. Reservation fees and assigned site fees may be required.

**Non commercial Wedding permits:** Each permit would be limited to three areas in the RRCNCA, including Red Spring Boardwalk, Dedication Overlook and Red Rock Wash Overlook. Red Spring Boardwalk and the Dedication Overlook would be limited to 2 two-hour periods per day which a maximum of 50 participants and 10 vehicles. Red Rock Wash Overlook would be limited to 2 two-hour periods per day with a maximum of 15 Guests and two vehicles. Permits would include still photography. A commercial videographer, not part of the wedding party relations, would require additional permit from the Las Vegas Field Office lands office.

**Group Camping and off season use of Campgrounds:** Group camp sites at Red Rock Campground are the only group camping areas covered by this proposal. If the campground is not open for general public use, the group sites may be available. Applicants will be responsible for cleaning, pumping toilets, trash removal and any extra security required for use of this site.

## 2.2. Description of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail

### Alternative A- Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, the affects of multiple SRP would be analyzed under 1 EA. This would streamline the permitting process allowing BLM staff to be more responsive to permittees. Effects should include reducing the standard 180 processing period, increased availability to monitor events, conformity of stipulations administration and the ability to analyze effects of non-permitted activities. Permits issued via the streamlined process would conform to the numbers previously mentioned in table 1, 2 and 3.

### Alternative B- No Action

Under the No-Action Alternative, Special Recreation Permits would continue to be processed in the current manner. Each proponent would be subject to a 180 day processing period. The number of permits issued would be reduced.

## 2.3. Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

There were no other alternatives considered or analyzed in detail.

## 2.4. Conformance

The EA is in conformance with the NV - Red Rock Canyon NCA RMP approved May 20, 2005, under the following management directions:

### (5A ) Special Recreation Permits

5A.1 Commercial uses have grown steadily in the last five years. In order to avoid establishing use patterns that might be detrimental to the RRCNCA, and to give a benchmark for analysis, initial allocations of commercial permits will be established as listed below. As monitoring results are evaluated, the number of permits could increase or decrease in the future. Initial permit allocations will be as follows:

#### 5A.1a) Rock Climbing Guides and Schools

5 year-round permits

“Guest” permits ( number to be determined in climbing plan)

#### 5A.1.b) Guided Horse Ride Operations

3 permits (no trail/use area overlap between permittees)

#### 5A.1c) Bus and Limo Tour Operations ( on Scenic Drive, no interpretation or hiking)

No limits on number of tours

#### 5 A.1d) 4X4 Vehicle Tour Operations (on designated roads)

4 permits

#### 5A.1e) Guided Bike Tours

4 permits (includes mountain bike and road bike tours)

#### 5A.1f) Guided Interpretive Hikes

5 permits

5A.2 New types of commercial uses proposed will be evaluated to determine if they are appropriate and consistent with RRCNCA management guidelines.

5A.3 The Bureau of Land Management will work in cooperation with local agencies and schools in the Clark County vicinity to further management directives. The administration of such agreements will be at the discretion of the National Conservation Area Manager. Agreements determined to fall under this category will not be deducted from the limits set for the previously mentioned categories.



## **Chapter 3. Affected Environment**

A detailed description of the of the affected environment is contained in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.

The table below summarizes the environmental attributes that have been reviewed, whether they may be affected by the Proposed Action, and the rationale for that determination. Elements that would not be affected will not be discussed further in this environmental assessment.

**Table 3.1.**

<b>Supplemental Authority</b>	<b>Not Present</b>	<b>Present/Not Affected</b>	<b>Present/May be Affected</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Air Quality		X		Not Carried forward for analysis since proponent and all participants of proposed permit activities will comply with Clark County Air Quality Regulations (see Appendix A).
Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	X			The area where all proposed permit activities would occur is not within an ACEC or any critical desert tortoise habitat.
BLM Natural Areas	X			Resource not present.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions		X		Currently there are no emission limits for suspected Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, and no technically defensible methodology for predicting potential climate changes from GHG emissions. However, there are, and will continue to be, several efforts to address GHG emissions from federal activities, including BLM authorized uses.
Cultural/ Historical		X		All proposed permit activities will be led along designated routes. Other than archaeological sites open for interpretation, all archaeological sites, including rock art sites, will be avoided. The communities are present in the area where all proposed permit activities would occur.
Environmental Justice	X			No minority or low-income communities are present in the area where all proposed permit activities would occur.
Farmlands Prime or Unique	X			The area where all proposed recreation permit stipulations (see Appendix A) thereby does not include prime or unique farmlands, minimizing affects to potential archaeological sites.

Noxious Weeds/Invasive Non-native Species		X		All proposed permit activities will occur on designated roads and trails, thus reducing the likelihood of affects of noxious weeds. To ensure no impact of noxious weeds/invasive non-native species in the proposed area, the proponent and all participants will comply with the special recreation permit stipulations and mitigation measures. (See Appendix A).
Native American Religious Concerns	X			No Native American concerns have been identified in the RMP that relates to this type of undertaking, if the proponent adheres to using only routes that have been designated by the BLM and have been cleared of religious concerns.
Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Animal Species			X	Carried forward for analysis.
Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Plant Species	X			Threatened and endangered plant species are not present.
Paleontology		X		All proposed permit activities will be led along designated routes. The proponent and all participants of proposed permit activities will comply with the special recreation permit stipulations (see Appendix A), thereby minimizing affects to potential paleontological sites.
Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species			X	Carried forward for analysis.
Floodplains		X		All proposed permit activities will be along designated roads and trails, resulting in no impacts to downstream flooding.

Fuels/Fire Management		X		All proposed permit activities will occur on designated roads and trails, and follow fire restrictions as stated in the annual fire restrictions order, thus reducing likelihood of impacts to proposed area.
Geology/ Minerals Resources/ Energy Production		X		All proposed permit activities that take place on pre-disturbed areas and trails will have no impacts with geology and minerals.
Hydrological Conditions		X		All proposed permit activities will be along designated roads and trails. No impacts to local hydrologic conditions.
Migratory Birds		X		As there will be no new surface disturbance associated with the proposed permit activities, there will be no impact on migratory birds. The proponent and all participants of proposed permit activities will comply with the special recreation permit stipulations (see Appendix A), thereby minimizing affects to migratory birds.
Lands/Access		X		Since all proposed permit activities will be along designated roads and trails, there are no lands issues.
Livestock Grazing	X			Proposed permit activities area where all permit activities would occur does not include an authorized grazing allotment.
Rangeland Health Standards		X		The area where all proposed permit activities would occur is limited to designated trails; there will not be additional surface disturbance with these activities.
Recreation			X	Carried forward for analysis.
Socio-Economics		X		The proposed permit activities may provide social and economic values for the society and the economic community.
Waste-Hazardous/Solid	X			Not present.

Water Resources Quality (drinking/surface/ground)		X		All proposed permit activities will occur on designated roads. Trails will be monitored regularly to ensure there is no increase in erosion and sedimentation resulting in degradation of water quality.
Wetlands/ Riparian Zones		X		All proposed permit activities will be along designated roads and trails. No new disturbance will occur. Trails located in or that traverse riparian areas and streams should be monitored regularly to ensure that the trails are not impacting them. No impacts to riparian areas.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	X			Resource not present.
Wilderness/WSA		X		All proposed permit activities are not located within or adjacent to WSAs. The proposed action is located in close proximity to Rainbow Mountain Wilderness. All wilderness areas are open to uses consistent with preservation of their wilderness character and their future use and enjoyment as wilderness. The proponent and all participants of proposed permit activities will comply with the special recreation permit stipulations (see Appendix A), thereby minimizing affects to wilderness areas/WSAs.
Areas with Wilderness Characteristics	X			The proposed permit activities are located within areas evaluated for wilderness characteristics and were managed as WSAs. The areas were designated as Wilderness and added as units to the National Preservation System. Those areas not designated were released from section 603(c) of FLPMA and are managed for other uses in accordance with the current Red Rock RMP.

Forests and Rangelands		X		Cactus and yucca may be present along and adjacent to trails. Because the proposed permit activities will be confined to existing roads, trails and previously disturbed areas, the proposed activities would be negligible and would not require mitigation.
Human Health and Safety			X	Carried forward for analysis. There is a potential for participants to be injured during climbing, hiking, biking and competitive events.
Visual Resource Management		X		The proposed permit activities occur within VRM classes II, III, and IV.
Vegetation Excluding Federally listed species		X		BLM special status plants may be present along and adjacent to the trails. Because the proposed permit activities would remain on existing roads, trails and previously disturbed areas potential impacts to BLM special status plants would be negligible and consistent with impacts to rare plants analyses in the Red Rock RMP.
Wild Horses and Burros			X	Carried forward for analysis. Proposed area where all permit activities would occur is within a portion of the Red Rock Herd Management Area.
Woodland and Forestry		X		Cactus and yucca are considered government property and regulated under the BLM Nevada forestry program. Cactus and yucca may be present along and adjacent to trails. Because the proposed permit activities will be confined to existing roads, trails and previously disturbed areas, potential impacts would be negligible and would not require mitigation.
Soils		X		All proposed permit activities will occur on designated roads and trails. Trails should be

				monitored regularly to ensure that there is no increase in erosion and sedimentation off the trails and that trails are not being degraded.
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### 3.1. Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Animal Species

The Mojave subspecies of the desert tortoise is a federally threatened species that occurs within the event area. This long-lived reptile was historically common throughout the Mojave Desert, but has declined substantially throughout much of its range. The decline is attributed to a number of factors, including upper-respiratory tract disease, loss of habitat, and predation by the common raven, and direct disturbance by humans.

Threatened and endangered species are placed on a federal list by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and receive protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The only T&E species known to occur in the vicinity of the project area is the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*).

The habitat requirements needed for a desert tortoise to survive include sufficient suitable plants for forage and cover, suitable substrates for burrow and nest sites, and freedom from disturbance. In the Mojave region, the desert tortoise occurs primarily on flats and bajadas with soils ranging from sand to sandy-gravel characterized by scattered shrubs and abundant inter-shrub space for herbaceous plant growth. They are also found on rocky terrain and slopes. The desert tortoise comes out of hibernation sometime during the month of March and returns to hibernation in November depending on temperature. Past monitoring data in southern Nevada shows that tortoise activity peaks in April, May, September and October.

### 3.2. Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species

The RRCNCA supports a rich community of nearly 300 diverse wildlife species. The project area supports wildlife characteristic of the northeastern Mojave Desert. Biological diversity varies according to topography, plant community, proximity to water, soil type, and season. Many of these species have adapted complex life strategies for survival in the desert environment.

Wildlife species in the general area include small mammals, rodents, birds and reptiles. Based on ecological sensitivity factors, groups of priority management concern are bats, raptors, reptiles and amphibians. The remaining RRCNCA wildlife group, carnivores and hoofed animals, represent a mix of unrelated species. Carnivores include foxes, coyotes, ringtails, badgers, bobcats and mountain lions.

Several common species of reptiles would be represented in the surrounding habitat types. These species include the western whip-tail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*), desert iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), zebra-tail lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), western shovel-nosed snake (*Chionactis occipitalis*) and garter snake (*Thamnophis* sp.).

Common bird species that would be represented include the rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza quinquestriata*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*).

Common mammal species include the black-tailed hare (*Lepus californicus*) and the desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*). Abundant evidence during the course of a site visit suggested the presence of common Mojave Desert rodent inhabitants such as cactus mice (*Peromyscus eremicus*), Merriam kangaroo rats (*Dipodomys merriami*) and species associated with rocky habitats including the wood rat (*Neotoma lepida*).

All of these species maintain dens and nest, hunt and forage, and rely on close ecological relationships to the habitat in which they live.

### **BLM Sensitive Wildlife Species**

According to the definition of a BLM sensitive species the following sensitive species are known to potentially occur within the area adjacent to the project site: western burrowing owl, western chuckwalla and banded Gila monster.

#### **Western burrowing owl (*Athene cuniculari hypugaea*)**

The Western burrowing owl is a diurnal bird of prey specialized for grassland and shrubsteppe habitats in western North America. The owls are widely distributed throughout the Americas and can be found from central Alberta, Canada to Tierra del Fuego in South America. Burrowing owl habitat typically consists of open, dry, treeless areas on plains, prairies and desert floors. Burrowing owls most frequently use mammal burrows created by other animals such as prairie dogs (*Cynomys* spp.), ground squirrels (*Spermophilus* spp.), coyotes (*Canis latrans*) or desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*). The burrows are used for nesting, roosting, cover and caching prey. In recent decades, the range and species count have been declining primarily due to agricultural, industrial and urban development that reduce burrow availability.

#### **Western chuckwalla (*Sauromalus obesus*)**

The western chuckwalla is a Nevada State protected species that is found throughout the deserts of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Chuckwallas inhabit rocky outcrops where cover is available between boulders or in rock crevices, typically on slopes and open flats below 5,000 feet. Typical habitat includes rocky hillsides and talus slopes, boulder piles, lava beds, or other clusters of rock, usually in association Mojave Desert Shrub vegetation. This species requires shady, well-drained soils for nests. The chuckwalla is a widespread species, but is regionally limited by its requirement for rock outcrops. Chuckwallas likely occur within the project area, but would be localized on rock outcroppings.

#### **Banded Gila monster (*Heloderma suspectum*)**

The Gila monster is a large, heavy-bodied lizard with a massive head, a short thick tail, and short limbs with strong claws. It has flamboyant dorsal coloration of black and pink, orange, or yellow and occasionally exceeds 50 centimeters (19.7 inches) in total length. The Gila monster's range includes extreme southwestern Utah, southern Nevada, and adjacent southeastern California south through southern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and much of Sonora to Sinaloa, Mexico. Its habitat includes Mojave and Sonoran desert scrub, desert grassland, thorn scrub, and



occasionally pine-oak woodland. Threats to this reptile include illegal collection, traffic fatalities, and most severely is habitat destruction from urban and agricultural development

### **3.3. Recreation**

The majority of the event SRPs would occur during the high-use periods (spring and fall). Although the area is not closed to casual recreational users during permitted events, it may affect the user's experience. Parking can be limited at the trail heads and the opportunity for solitude on the trail decreases during permitted events. This action complies with the goals of the RRCNCA RMP and ROD which was approved in May 2005. Permittees will be required to abide by the attached stipulations for Red Rock Canyon NCA. The events will be limited to the approved trails, crags, developed picnic areas, and parking lots identified in this EA.

### **3.4. Human Health and Safety**

The Red Rock Canyon NCA is one of the top ten mountain climbing destinations and attracts participants world-wide with various levels of experience. Climbing, even guided tours, have the potential to result in serious injury or death. Permitted events and guides are required to maintain a higher level of guiding experience, which should mitigate the potential for this type of event. We have had no death of clients for our permitted activities since 2001.

Improper disposal of human waste can become an issue in high use areas which are far from BLM provided facilities. Permittees are required to dispose of all waste through approved "Leave No Trace" methods.

During competitive and organized group events, permittees will be required to put measures in place to reduce the potential of injuries to participants. Permittees may be required to have medical plan and currently credentialed emergency medical personnel with Advanced First Aid to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or higher level on site. Participants will be required to be advised of the presence of harmful animals, desert conditions, signs and symptoms of heat related problems, and what to do in case of emergency.

Permittees and participants will be advised that potable water is not provided in the National Conservation Area, except at the visitor center and campground. Everyone should bring their own safe drinking water.

### **3.5. Wild Horse and Burro**

The proposed tour areas includes portions of the Red Rock Herd Management Area (HMA). The Red Rock HMA encompasses approximately 160,000 acres of BLM public land and approximately 25,000 acres of USFS public land in southern Clark county. The wild horses and burros generally rely on some portion of either the BLM or USFS public lands to provide their required habitat throughout the year. The 2010 wild horse and burro population estimate (adults only) for the Red Rock HMA is 35 wild horses and 54 wild burros.

# **Chapter 4. Environmental Effects**

## **4.1. Environmental Effects**

### **4.1.1. Alternative A-Proposed Action**

#### **4.1.1.1. Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Animal Species**

The proposed action has a no effect determination on the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). This project will have no effect on any other federally-listed species or designated critical habitat. Tortoises that may be present are likely present only in very low densities.

The participants will be briefed by organizing officials on Desert Tortoise concerns and monitored to ensure that all permittees do not create any new surface disturbance. Access to and from designated event areas is limited to existing roads and trails and no new surface or vegetation disturbance will occur. The proponent and all participants must adhere to the special recreation permit stipulations to further ensure no impacts to Desert Tortoises. No impacts to Desert Tortoise or their habitat are expected to occur. Additionally, compliance with the special stipulations below will help to ensure that no affect to Desert Tortoises occurs.

#### **4.1.1.2. Fish And Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species**

Wildlife species in the general area include small mammals, rodents, birds and reptiles. These species would be displaced if lands are disturbed within the project area.

##### **BLM Sensitive Wildlife Species**

*Western Burrowing owl (Athene cuniculari hypugaea)*

Potential Western Burrowing owl habitat occurs adjacent to the project area. No direct loss of individuals is not anticipated as the proposed action will create no amount surface disturbance and will be protected by mitigation measures for migratory birds.

*Western chuckwalla (Sauromalus obesus) and Banded Gila monster (Heloderma suspectum)*

Western chuckwalla and Banded Gila monster may be killed or injured if they wander into the area of activity.

#### **4.1.1.3. Recreation**

Trail widening and surface disturbance at designated staging areas could occur from passing during competitive events and use of staging locations. Trail widening can increase erosion which could cause maintenance issues and affect the recreational experience of the trail. It could also contribute to potential conflicts between recreational users.

#### **4.1.1.4. Human Health and Safety**

The result of this proposed action on health and human safety is to encourage higher level of guiding expertise and safety. Most injuries and deaths have been from unpermitted groups and individuals. Permitted events and guides are required to maintain a higher level of guiding experience, which should mitigate the potential for this type of event. .

Improper disposal of human waste can become an issue in high use areas which are far from BLM provided facilities. Human waste and trash is more likely to be removed using “Leave No Trace” methods with guides and permitted events.

Participants of events and clients are educated and will be advised of the presence of harmful animals, desert conditions, signs and symptoms of heat related problems, and what to do in case of emergency by permittees. Permittees often provide water for their clients/participants which alleviate need for potable water from BLM facilities.

Permittees and participants are also required to follow all other federal, state, and local law which should result in safer speeds on crowded roads, more possibility of safe activities and protection of facilities.

#### **4.1.1.5. Wild Horses and Burros**

The proposed action would not directly have an effect on wild horses and burros because they would avoid the tour areas during heavy use due to vehicle noise and the presence of humans. Wild horses and burros would not be restricted from forage or water due to the multiple locations of those resources throughout the Red Rock HMA. There would be no loss of forage and no impacts to the available forage within the HMA.

At times, if in the vicinity of the tour areas, wild horses and burros would be temporarily displaced from that area upon arrival of the first vehicle or person. Wild horses and burros would likely move a reasonable distance away from the heavily toured areas. Upon passage of the last tour vehicle or person, wild horses and burros would return to their normal ranges within the HMA.

A collision between a vehicle and wild horse and/or burro is possible, but unlikely. In the unlikely event that there is a collision, the incident would need to be reported immediately to the BLM. Tour participants would be informed to not to harass (feed, pet, chase, etc.) wild horses and burros if encountered on or near the tour course and staging areas. The tour course should avoid the areas near Blue Diamond and the surrounding areas from March to June, as this is the primary foaling season. Alternative routes in other portions of the Red Rock Core Area could be utilized during that portion of the year to reduce potential impacts and stress on the pregnant mares, jennies, and new foals. Also future gathers and removals will take place when it has been determined that there are excess wild horses and burros in the HMA. The tours will be temporarily suspended during these times to allow for a safe gather environment. The BLM will notify tour operators prior to beginning gather operations.

### **4.1.2. Alternative B - No Action**

#### **4.1.2.1. Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Animal Species**

If the no action alternative is selected, each application would be required a separate environmental analysis. If no action alternative is selected, fewer visitor may be in desert tortoise habitat, however reports of takes and education about desert tortoise and other threatened species will be reduced.

#### **4.1.2.2. Fish And Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species**

If the no action alternative is selected, each application would be required a separate environmental analysis. If no action alternative is selected, fewer visitor may be in the habitat, however reports of takes and education about desert species will be reduced.

#### **4.1.2.3. Recreation**

If the no action alternative is selected, each application would be required a separate environmental analysis.

Trails and facilities would be monitored less and subject to more vandalism and damage.

#### **4.1.2.4. Human Health and Safety**

If the no action alternative is selected, each application would be required a separate environmental analysis.

The result of no action on health and human safety is to discourage a higher level of guiding expertise and safety. Most injuries and deaths have been from unpermitted groups and individuals.

Improper disposal of human waste can become an issue in high use areas which are far from BLM provided facilities. Human waste and trash is less likely to be removed using “Leave No Trace” methods .

Participants of events and clients will be less educated of the presence of harmful animals, desert conditions, signs and symptoms of heat related problems, and what to do in case of emergency by permittees. Visitors are more likely to use non potable water or put a higher demand on BLM facilities.

Visitors are less likely to follow all other federal, state, and local laws when there is not a respected presence around. This results in more possibility of unsafe activities and damage to facilities.

#### **4.1.2.5. Wild Horses and Burros**

If the no action alternative is selected, each application would be required a separate environmental analysis.

HMA would be monitored less and animals would be subject to more disturbance

### **4.2. Cumulative Effects**

#### **4.2.1. Cumulative Effects: Alternative A- Proposed Action**

##### **4.2.1.1. Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Animal Species**

It is not anticipated at this time that any new disturbance will be associated with this environmental assessment. Therefore, cumulative impacts to the landscape area are limited to the current

situation, and are not expected to increase or decrease appreciably with no new disturbance authorized. The commercial use of Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area for recreation activities generates additional interest in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area which could lead to additional visitation over time. As growth in the Las Vegas Valley continues to grow, and as the popularity of the RRCNCA increases, the need for areas to recreate increases each year will continue to increase in the future.

#### **4.2.1.2. Fish And Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species**

It is not anticipated at this time that any new disturbance will be associated with this environmental assessment. Therefore, cumulative impacts to the landscape area are limited to the current situation, and are not expected to increase or decrease appreciably with no new disturbance authorized. The commercial use of Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area for recreation activities generates additional interest in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area which could lead to additional visitation over time. As growth in the Las Vegas Valley continues to grow, and as the popularity of the RRCNCA increases, the need for areas to recreate increases each year will continue to increase in the future.

#### **4.2.1.3. Recreation**

The Red Rock Canyon Core Trails System was designated for hiking, climbing and limited equestrian use. The high use periods for casual recreational users occur during the spring and fall seasons.

The majority of the event SRPs would occur during the high use periods. Although the area is not closed to casual recreational users during permitted events it may affect the users' experience. Parking can be limited at the trailheads and designated parking areas and the opportunity for solitude on the trail decreases during permitted events. Trail widening could occur from illegal passing during competitive foot races. Trail widening can increase erosion which would cause maintenance issues and affect the recreational experience of the trail.

The proposed action could generate additional interest in the Red Rock Canyon Core Trail System by exposing participants for the first time to the area. The additional recreation use could also contribute to trail widening and base area widening for rock climbers, or additional unauthorized trails being created. It could also increase the potential for conflicts between recreational users.

BLM facilities could receive additional use and require additional maintenance.

Future planned projects include a multi-use trail system to be constructed between the scenic drive exit and entrance paralleling Highway 159. This trail would be accessible for non-motorized use with separate sections for equestrian and other users. This trail system would help alleviate potential motorized vs. non-motorized use along Highway 159. It would also increase access to areas currently not easily accessible and could result in unauthorized trails developing.

Other future actions foreseen include designation of trails in the Blue Diamond Mesa/Cowboy Trails area for use by hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use. This would increase use of a little known area of the NCA. It would also allow other areas to receive less intensive use and provide other recreational opportunities sought out by current visitors. Increased use of this area would require additional maintenance and signing.

#### **4.2.1.4. Human Health and Safety**

The cumulative effects is to encourage a higher level of guiding expertise and safety. This could reduce the issues we have with illegal guiding. Fewer accidents, injuries and deaths would be created from permitted groups and individuals.

The reduction of human waste in use areas which are far from BLM provided facilities would be accomplished. Human waste and trash is more likely to be removed using “Leave No Trace” methods.

Participants of events and clients will be more educated of the presence of harmful animals, desert conditions, signs and symptoms of heat related problems, and what to do in case of emergency by permittees. Visitors are less likely to use non potable water or put a higher demand on BLM facilities.

Visitors are more likely to follow all other federal, state, and local laws when there is not a respected presence around. This results in less of a possibility of unsafe activities and damage to facilities.

#### **4.2.1.5. Wild Horse and Burros**

Off-road tours may increase the total use and human presence in the HMA; this increase has the potential to directly and indirectly impact the wild horses and burros. With increased human use there is the potential for more essential habitat loss, increased interactions with the wild horses and burros, and the potential to alter their normal foraging and watering behaviors. These impacts should be limited under our current management, however, and there should be little cumulative impacts to the wild horses and burros as a result of the activities associated with these type of events because of the small portion of the overall HMA being affected and the total habitat that is available in the Red Rock HMA.

### **4.2.2. Cumulative Effects: Alternative B - No Action**

If the no action alternative is selected, each application would be required a separate environmental analysis, cumulatively creating more work and slowing down the permitting process.

#### **4.2.2.1. Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Animal Species**

With the No Action Alternative, cumulative impacts to threatened, endangered, and candidate animals species would be the same as in Alternative A — The Proposed Action.

#### **4.2.2.2. Fish And Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species**

With the No Action Alternative, cumulative impacts to fish and wildlife, excluding federally listed species, would be the same as in Alternative A — The Proposed Action.

#### **4.2.2.3. Recreation**

With the No Action Alternative, cumulative impacts to recreation would be the same as in Alternative A — Proposed Action.

#### **4.2.2.4. Human Health and Safety**

If the no action alternative is selected, each application would be required a separate environmental analysis, potentially resulting in fewer permits issued due to the increased environmental analysis workload.

The result of no action is to discourage a higher level of guiding expertise and safety. This could compound the issues we have with illegal guiding. Most injuries and deaths have been from unpermitted groups and individuals. .

Improper disposal of human waste can become an issue in high use areas which are far from BLM provided facilities. Human waste and trash is less likely to be removed using “Leave No Trace” methods .

Participants of events and clients will be less educated of the presence of harmful animals, desert conditions, signs and symptoms of heat related problems, and what to do in case of emergency by permittees. Visitors are more likely to use non potable water or put a higher demand on BLM facilities.

Visitors are less likely to follow all other federal, state, and local laws when there is not a respected presence around. This results in more possibility of unsafe activities and damage to facilities.

#### **4.2.2.5. Wild Horse and Burros**

With the No Action Alternative, cumulative impacts to wild horses and burros would be the same as in Alternative A — Proposed Action.

### **4.3. Mitigation Measures**

#### **4.3.1. Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Animal Species**

A speed limit of 25 miles per hour shall be required for all vehicles travelling on the existing unpaved roads.

Should a desert tortoise enter the area of activity, all activity shall cease until such time as the animal has left the area of its own accord.

Permittees and clients will be instructed to check underneath all vehicles before moving them as tortoises often take cover underneath parked vehicles.

Permittees and clients will be provided educational information on the desert tortoise which includes the legal protection and consequences for the violation of the Endangered Species Act. If a tortoise is observed, officials will ensure that participants do not harass the desert tortoise, or if a tortoise should wander into harm’s way the event will cease until the animal moves out of harm’s way of its own volition.

All related trash will be contained and removed from the site at the conclusion of the event(s). Permittees and clients will be instructed to stay on existing trails and roads. No new trails will be constructed by the permittee.



Permittee shall provide a briefing base on material provided by the BLM concerning the current status of the Desert Tortoise to all persons involved in the permitted action and obtain the signatures of each briefing attendee. Signatures shall be returned to BLM with the Post Use report.

### **4.3.2. Fish And Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species**

Any disturbance as a result of the permitted activity is ground for denial of future permits.

Permittee shall not damage, collect, or introduce plants, animals or parts at any location with in Red Rock Canyon NCA without permission from the Authorized officer.

Permittee shall ensure that events/ clients/ employees do not harass, harm, feed, bait or lure animals closer to vehicles or humans. Pictures must be taken at a distance.

Painting of rocks or the establishment of permanent markers or improvements is prohibited.

Permittee will do everything reasonable, both independently and/or upon request of the Authorized officer to prevent fires caused by their activity on or near lands utilized. Compensation may be required of the permittee for Federal, State, or private interests in suppression and rehabilitation expenses incurred from such activities.

### **4.3.3. Recreation**

1. BLM personnel will meet with each of the permittees at least once while the group will be visiting or event to ensure compliance with permit stipulations.
2. For full-time permits, the BLM staff will meet at least quarterly to ensure compliance.
3. Events will be limited to no more than once per month per location to allow for other users to utilize the area without scheduled events.
4. During the peak rock climbing season (Oct 1– Dec 1 & March 1– May 1) rock climbing permittees may be restricted on the amount of clients per location per wall to allow for general public use. When the Red Rock Climbing Plan is complete, new stipulations may supersede existing regulations.
5. Group size of hiking, climbing, mountain biking, and equestrian groups per guide per location would be limited to no more than **12** unless permission is granted by an authorized BLM representative.
6. Permittee is not authorized to camp on public lands with permission from the Authorized officer.
7. Permittee will not remove or damage land survey markers.
8. Permitted activities may be restricted on weekends or holidays in order to avoid conflicts with other recreational users.
9. Permittee for events shall review proposed courses before and after the event. Permittees will have proposed course marked at least 48 hours prior to their event for BLM's review. All course marking and flagging must be removed within 24 hours after the event. Permittee will be required to repair trail wear that needs to be done as a result of the event.

10. Permittee shall ensure that the number of vehicles, unless authorized, may not exceed 50% of the holding capacity of the use site as determined by the Bureau of Land Management.

#### **4.3.4. Health and Human Safety**

1. The permittees must assume responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g. trail and route conditions, land slides, avalanches, rocks, changing water or weather conditions, falling tree limbs that present risks for which the permittee assumes responsibility.
2. Permittee shall place signs and other warning devices as deemed necessary by the authorizing officer to warn the public of the action taking place.
3. The permittees must insure that first aid services provided at the events have the capability to insure that any accident victim may be located, treated, and evacuated as needed in a timely manner. A reliable communication system shall be provided by the permittee sufficient to provide immediate contact for the first aid provider (AFA or EMT) to local emergency dispatch centers (BLM or Metro).
4. The permittees must notify the authorizing officer, in writing and verbally, of any accident that occurs while involved in activities authorized by this permit which result in : death, personal injury requiring hospitalization or emergency evacuation, or in property damage greater than \$2,500. Reports should be submitted within 48 hours in the case of death or injury, or 10 days in accidents involving property damage.
5. The permittees shall be responsible for the supervision of all participants, spectators, and other persons associated with the activity and will be responsible for public safety on site.
6. Permittee will be responsible for ensuring adequate sanitation facilities are provided for participants as determined by the Authorized officer.
7. The Scenic Drive is a one way road, wrong way travel is prohibited unless approved or directed by the Authorized officer.

#### **4.3.5. Wild Horse and Burro**

- 1) Tour participants would be informed to not harass (feed, pet, chase, bait, lure, etc.) wild horses and burros if encountered on or near the tour course and staging areas. Pictures must be taken at a distance.
- 2) The vehicle tour courses should avoid the areas near Blue Diamond and the surrounding areas from March to June, as this is the primary foaling season. Alternate routes in other portions of the Red Rock Core Area could be utilized during that portion of the year to reduce potential impacts and stress on the pregnant mares, jennies, and new foals.
- 3) Tours will be temporarily suspended during gathers to allow for a safe gather environment. The BLM will notify the tour operators prior to beginning gather operations. Events will be cancelled during gathers.

**Please Note** : As mentioned the above section 2.1 Description Alternate A- Proposed Action, all approved SRPs will comply with:

- Clark County Air Quality Regulations that is enforced by the Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management, the air quality compliance oversight agency as designated by the Governor of the State of Nevada.
- BLM Special Recreation Permit stipulations listed in Appendix A. Additional stipulations may be added to individual Special Recreation Permits as required.

## **Chapter 5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted**

Only an internal review was conducted.

**Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Purpose &amp; Authorities for Consultation or Coordination</b>	<b>Findings &amp; Conclusions</b>
Shawnee Hinman, Special Uses Team	U.S.D.A. Forest Service Spring Mountains National Recreation Area Humboldt-Toiyabe NF	The BLM and Forest Service will coordinate when SRP activities cross both administered lands.

## **Chapter 6. List of Preparers**

**Table 6.1. List of Prepares**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document</b>
Sendi Kalic	Wilderness Planner	Wilderness
Lisa Christianson	Environmental Protection Specialist	Air Quality
Mark Boatwright	Archeologist	Cultural Resources/Native American Concerns
Sarah Peterson	Hydrologist	Riparian/Soils/Floodplains
Nora Caplette	Natural Resource Specialist	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds
Fred Edwards	Botanist	Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Plant Species
Krystal Johnson	Wild Horse & Burro Specialist	Wild Horse & Burro/Grazing/Range Land
Lorri Dee Dukes	Geologist	Geology
Lee Kirk	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Amelia Savage	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Animal Species
Kerri-Anne Thorpe	Realty Specialist	Lands/Access
Susan Farkas	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Environmental Coordinator
Lauren Brown	Restoration Ecologist	Visual Resource Management

# **Appendix A. BLM Special Recreation Permit Stipulations**

## **A.1.**

## **A.2. Air Quality**

1. Clark County Air Quality Regulations that is enforced by the Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management, the air quality compliance oversight agency as designated by the Governor of the State of Nevada.
2. Special compliance attention will be given to Section 92 of the Clark County Air Quality Regulations, states, “Unpaved Parking Lot means any area of 5,000 square feet or larger that is not paved and that is used for parking, maneuvering, or storing Motor Vehicles, equipment, or materials” and requires areas to be paved. Control measures described in Subsection 92.2.1.2 must be implemented for all unpaved parking areas of 5,000 sq.ft. or less.

### **A.2.1. Cultural/Historical**

1. Permittee shall immediately stop all activity should an archaeological resource be discovered while involved with commercial or competitive activity. When these resources are discovered, they should remain undisturbed and the authorized officer shall be notified immediately. No fossils may be collected within the boundaries of RRCNCA.
2. It is prohibited to disturb or touch any rock art panels. Within Red Rock Canyon there is no climbing within 50 feet of rock art panels. It is also prohibited to cross over or occupy areas with surface cultural resources (such as agave roasting pits, rock shelters, rock rings).

### **A.2.2. Noxious Weeds/Invasive Non-native Species**

All travel vectors have increased risks of introducing and transporting weeds. All vehicles and personnel both commercial and client will be examined by proponent and cleaned free of vegetation and soil before travel to meeting sites or trail heads. A secondary cleaning is required upon exit from each site to facilitate weed control. Commercial proponents have an obligation to report site weed infestations to BLM personnel to aid in protecting the resource.

1. For SRP events both guided and single, it is mandatory that all equipment and personnel gear is clean and free of soil and vegetation before arrival on site.
2. In a single events, an equipment check should be performed as a registration process, and a wash/cleaning station should be available for participants to clean their equipment before leaving the site and potentially bringing the weeds with them. Weeds shall be deposited in trash cans or bags that the permittee provides.



### **A.2.3. Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Animal Species**

1. A speed limit of 25 miles per hour shall be required for all vehicles travelling on the existing unpaved roads.
2. Should a desert tortoise enter the area of activity, all activity shall cease until such time as the animal has left the area of its own accord.
3. Permittees and clients will be instructed to check underneath all vehicles before moving them as tortoises often take cover underneath parked vehicles.
4. Permittees and clients will be provided educational information on the desert tortoise which includes the legal protection and consequences for the violation of the Endangered Species Act. If a tortoise is observed, officials will ensure that participants do not harass the desert tortoise, or if a tortoise should wander into harm's way the event will cease until the animal moves out of harm's way of its own volition.
5. All related trash will be contained and removed from the site at the conclusion of the event(s). Permittees and clients will be instructed to stay on existing trails and roads. No new trails will be constructed by the permittee.
6. Permittee shall provide a briefing base on material provided by the BLM concerning the current status of the Desert Tortoise to all persons involved in the permitted action and obtain the signatures of each briefing attendee. Signatures shall be returned to BLM with the Post Use report.

### **A.2.4. Paleontology**

1. Permittee shall immediately stop all activity should a paleontological remain (fossil material) be discovered while involved with commercial or competitive activity. When these resources are discovered, they should remain undisturbed/avoided and the authorized officer shall be notified immediately. No fossils may be collected within the boundaries of RRCNCA.

### **A.2.5. Fish, Wildlife and Vegetation, Excluding Federally Listed Species**

1. Any disturbance as a result of the permitted activity is ground for denial of future permits.
2. Permittee shall not damage, collect, or introduce plants, animals or parts at any location with in Red Rock Canyon NCA without permission from the Authorized officer.
3. Permittee shall ensure that event/clients/ employees do not harass, harm, feed, bait or lure animals closer to vehicles or humans. Pictures must be taken at a distance.
4. Painting of rocks or the establishment of permanent markers or improvements is prohibited.
5. Permittee will do everything reasonable, both independently and/or upon request of the Authorized officer to prevent fires caused by their activity on or near lands utilized.

Compensation may be required of the permittee for Federal, State, or private interests in suppression and rehabilitation expenses incurred from such activities.

## **A.2.6. Fuels/Fire Management**

1. All proposed permit activities will follow fire restrictions as stated in the annual fire restrictions order.

## **A.2.7. Migratory Bird**

1. If climbing activities occur during raptor breeding season and participants encounter active nests, climbers will cease activity and avoid nesting areas until nestlings fledge and vacate the nest.

### **A.2.7.1. Recreation**

1. BLM personnel will meet with each of the permittees at least once while the group will be visiting or event to ensure compliance with permit stipulations.
2. For full-time permits, the BLM staff will meet at least quarterly to ensure compliance.
3. Events will be limited to no more than once per month per location to allow for other users to utilize the area without scheduled events.
4. During the peak rock climbing season (Oct 1– Dec 1 & March 1– May 1) rock climbing permittees may be restricted on the amount of clients per location per wall to allow for general public use. When the Red Rock Climbing Plan is complete, new stipulations may supersede existing regulations.
5. Group size of hiking, climbing, mountain biking, and equestrian groups per guide per location would be limited to no more than **12** unless permission is granted by an authorized BLM representative.
6. Permittee is not authorized to camp on public lands with permission from the Authorized officer.
7. Permittee will not remove or damage land survey markers.
8. Permitted activities may be restricted on weekends or holidays in order to avoid conflicts with other recreational users.
9. Permittee for events shall review proposed courses before and after the event. Permittees will have proposed course marked at least 48 hours prior to their event for BLM's review. All course marking and flagging must be removed within 24 hours after the event. Permittee will be required to repair trail wear that needs to be done as a result of the event.
10. Permittee shall ensure that the number of vehicles, unless authorized, may not exceed 50% of the holding capacity of the use site as determined by the Bureau of Land Management.

## **A.2.8. Wilderness/WSA**

1. Any placement of new bolts and/or other permanent anchoring devices in any rock, soil or vegetation in the Rainbow Mountain and La Madre Mountain Wilderness areas of Red Rock Canyon by any guide or contracted employee of that company is grounds for cancellation of the permit, denial for future permits and possible legal action, unless authorized by the Authorized officer.

### **A.2.8.1. Human Health and Safety**

1. The permittees must assume responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g. trail and route conditions, land slides, avalanches, rocks, changing water or weather conditions, falling tree limbs that present risks for which the permittee assumes responsibility.
2. Permittee shall place signs and other warning devices as deemed necessary by the authorizing officer to warn the public of the action taking place.
3. The permittees must insure that first aid services provided at the events have the capability to insure that any accident victim may be located, treated, and evacuated as needed in a timely manner. A reliable communication system shall be provided by the permittee sufficient to provide immediate contact for the first aid provider (AFA or EMT) to local emergency dispatch centers (BLM or Metro).
4. The permittees must notify the authorizing officer, in writing and verbally, of any accident that occurs while involved in activities authorized by this permit which result in : death, personal injury requiring hospitalization or emergency evacuation, or in property damage greater than \$2,500. Reports should be submitted within 48 hours in the case of death or injury, or 10 days in accidents involving property damage.
5. The permittees shall be responsible for the supervision of all participants, spectators, and other persons associated with the activity and will be responsible for public safety on site.
6. Permittee will be responsible for ensuring adequate sanitation facilities are provided for participants as determined by the Authorized officer.
7. The Scenic Drive is a one way road, wrong way travel is prohibited unless approved or directed by the Authorized officer.

#### **A.2.8.1.1. Wild Horse and Burro**

1. Tour participants would be informed to not harass (feed, pet, chase, bait, lure, etc.) wild horses and burros if encountered on or near the tour course and staging areas. Pictures must be taken at a distance.
2. The vehicle tour courses should avoid the areas near Blue Diamond and the surrounding areas from March to June, as this is the primary foaling season. Alternate routes in other portions of the Red Rock Core Area could be utilized during that portion of the year to reduce potential impacts and stress on the pregnant mares, jennies, and new foals.

3. Tours will be temporarily suspended during gathers to allow for a safe gather environment. The BLM will notify the tour operators prior to beginning gather operations. Events will be cancelled during gathers.